

Application Serial No.: 10/021,963

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Amendment dated: February 15, 2006

Response to Office Action dated November 17, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Canceled)

1/ 9. (Currently amended) An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

(a) a transcription promoter;

(b) a DNA segment encoding a protein of from 51 to 81 amino acid residues in length, said protein comprising ~~a sequence of~~ amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from residue 6 through residue 56; and

(c) a transcription terminator.

2/ 10. (Original) The expression vector of claim 9 further comprising a secretory signal sequence operably linked to the DNA segment.

11. (Canceled)

9/ 12. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 9 wherein said protein consists of residues 6 through 56 of SEQ ID NO:2.

13. (Canceled)

4/ 14. (Original) The expression vector of claim 9 wherein said protein is from 51 to 59 residues in length.

5/ 15. (Original) The expression vector of claim 10 wherein said vector further comprises a second DNA segment encoding an affinity tag operably linked to the DNA segment encoding the protein.

6/ 16. (Original) The expression vector of claim 15 wherein said affinity tag is maltose binding protein, polyhistidine, or Glu-Tyr-Met-Pro-Met-Glu (SEQ ID NO:6).

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¹ ~~7~~ 17. (Original) A cultured cell containing an expression vector according to claim ~~9~~, wherein said cell expresses the DNA segment.

⁸ ~~18~~ 18. (Original) A method of making a protein comprising:
culturing a cell according to claim ~~17~~ under conditions whereby said DNA segment is expressed; and
recovering the protein encoded by the DNA segment.

19. (Canceled)

⁹ ~~20~~ 20. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim ~~9~~ wherein said protein comprises residues 1-59 of SEQ ID NO:2.

¹⁰ ~~21~~ 21. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim ~~9~~ wherein said protein consists of residues 1-59 of SEQ ID NO:2.

¹¹ ~~22~~ 22. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim ~~15~~ wherein said vector further comprises a third DNA segment encoding a proteolytic cleavage site, wherein said third DNA segment is positioned between said DNA segment encoding a protein and said second DNA segment.

¹² ~~23~~ 23. (Previously presented) The cell of claim ~~17~~ wherein said protein is from 51 to 59 residues in length.

¹³ ~~24~~ 24. (Previously presented) The cell of claim ~~17~~ wherein said protein comprises residues 1-59 of SEQ ID NO:2.

¹⁴ ~~25~~ 25. (Previously presented) The cell of claim ~~17~~ wherein said protein consists of residues 1-59 of SEQ ID NO:2.

¹⁵ ~~26~~ 26. (Previously presented) The cell of claim ~~17~~ wherein said protein consists of residues 6-56 of SEQ ID NO:2.

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¹⁶ ~~27~~. (Previously presented) The cell of claim ⁷ ~~17~~ wherein the expression vector further comprises a secretory signal sequence operably linked to the DNA segment.

¹⁷ ~~28~~. (Previously presented) The method of claim ⁸ ~~18~~ wherein the expression vector further comprises a secretory signal sequence operably linked to the DNA segment and wherein the protein encoded by the DNA segment is secreted into and recovered from a culture medium in which the cell is cultured.